Nevertheless, as occasionally one or two of the stamens fail to leave their first position, remaining still over the stigma till both it and the anthers are mature ; and especially as this flower seems to be the favourite resort of the insects I have alluded to, and which may carry pollen from the cup to the stigma ; I have no doubt that self-fertilisation occasionally takes place.

In concluding this paper, I should like to add a word of caution, for the benefit of young botanists who may perchance read it ; and who may feel inclined to study this matter of fertilization. Neither in this or in any other question of physiological or structural botany, should undue reliance be placed on the examination of cultivated plants ; and even in the case of collected wild flowers, great care is necessary to avoid being misled. Most plants are more or less altered by cultivation. Petals are gained by the sacrifice of stamens ; and varieties are produced, which in a great measure destroy typical specific forms. I need only refer to the vast difference between the wild and the garden rose. The first with its five petals and numerous stamens ; the second with its numerous petals and, if the gardener can help it, no stamens. With regard to collected wild flowers ; of course they must be collected for microscopic or home study ; but it will very often be found that those whose stamens assume any one position relatively to the stigma while on the plant, have that position quite changed, by the drying and contortion of the filaments very soon after they are collected. It is on that account that I have been careful to study the Leptospermums *in situ*. To arrive at a correct conclusion of any matter touching the physiology and habits of plants, they must be studied in their own homes.

Localities of some species of recent Polynesian Mollusca

By J. Brazier, C.M.Z.S., &c.

1. Pirenopsis costata.

Melania costata, Quoy and Gaimard (non Reeve), Voy. de l' Astr. Zool. Vol. 3, p. 155, pl. 56, fig. 34-37. *Melasma costata*, H. & A. Adams, Recent Mollusca, Vol. 2, p. 302. Chenu.

Manuel de Conch, Vol. I., p. 292, fig. 2,000. *Melania costata*, Brot. Materiaux la Famille des Melaniens I., p. 47, 1862. *Pirena Lamarei*, Brot. Mater. III., p. 52, pl. 2, fig. 1-2. *Pirenopsis costata*, Brot. in Conch. Cab. Küster's edition, p. 408, pl. 44, fig. 2 and 2 A.E., 1874.

Hab. Vanikoro. (*Quoy*), Vate or Sandwich Island, New Hebrides. (*Young and King.*)

Some few weeks ago I received from Mr. E. L. Layard, British Consul at Noumea, New Caledonia, a number of shells for identification. In the lot I observed one typical specimen of the *Melania costata* Quoy and G., and two specimens of the shell described and figured by Dr. A. Brot in his Matériaux pour servir a l'étude de la famille des Mélaniens III., p. 52, pl. 2, fig. 1-2, as *Pirena Lamarie*. I quite agree with Dr. Brot that his species is only a mere variety of *costata*, Quoy. One of Mr. Layard's specimens has sharp spiny nodules on the centre of the last whorl the other specimen is in a much younger state, and gives the shell the aspect of a Scalaria with rather bold longitudinal ribs; the last whorl has ten ribs sharply spined, spirally ridged below. Vanikoro is in about 11° 40′ S. Lat. Vate or Sandwich 17° 50′ S. Lat.

2. Melania acanthica.

Melania acanthica, Lea. Pro. Zool. Soc. p. 194, 1850. Hanley Conchological Miscellany, pl. 1, fig. 8.

Tiara acanthica, H. & A. Ad. recent Mollusca, Vol. 1, p. 295.

Melania spinulosa, Reeve (non Lam.), Conch. Icon. Vol. XII., pl. 22, fig. 156, A.B., *pugilis*, Reeve (non Hinds), B.C. pl. 26, f. 180.

Hab. San Christoval, Florida, Ysabel, Solomon Islands, (*Brazier*), Vate or Sandwich Island, New Hebrides. (*Young and King.*)

This species is not very common on Vate. The few that I have seen from Mr. Layard are thickly incrusted with oxide of iron ; it is soon removed with the point of a penknife. In the Solomon's I secured specimens quite free from oxide. Messrs. Young and King also found *Melania tuberculata*, Muller, an almost universal species, enjoying about fifteen other specific names. *Melania*

Arthuri, Brot was also found, a species also common to New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. It is the *M. speciosa*, Morelet *M. Moreleti*, Reeve. The species of Neritinidæ also found, were *N. variegata*, Less. *N. Souleyetana*, Recluz. *N. corona*, Linn. *N. crepidularia* Lam. *N. Roisyana*, Recluz, this is also the *cuprina*, Recluz. *chrysocolla*, Gould and *Navigataria*, Reeve.

Pythia Argenville, Pf. It is very common in Fitzroy Island on the north-east Coast of Australia.

Reeve in his Monograph of the Melanidæ is very confusing with some of the species.

Of the species figured on plate XXIII., fig. 164, A.B.C., as *Melania lateritia*, Lea. only B. and C. are *lateritia*, Lea. 164, A. is *Melania granifera*, Lam. figure 165 A. B , on the same plate Reeve considers to be only *lateritia*, Lea. but it is *Melania spectabilis*, Brot. figured in Küster second ed. of Chem. Conch. Cab. Evidently Reeve's figure 166 is another species, or else a variety of *M. spectabilis*, Brot.

The *Melania* figured by Reeve on plate VI., fig. 28-29 as *M. costata*, Quoy is *M. hastula* Lea. from the Philippine and Fiji Islands.

On plate XXVII., fig. 186 A. B.. are *Melania setosa*, Swainson I found specimens of it at Wanga Creek, San Christoval, Solomon Islands, figure 185 A. B. On the same plate are *Melania setigera*, Brot. Cat. of recent species of Melania, p. 300. Reeve makes it a variety of Swainson's species, but they are totally distinct in character. It is found in the Philippine Islands.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Baron Maclay exhibited some beautifully preserved specimens of very delicate forms of marine life, such as *Oceania pileata, Salpa democratica, Alcyonium palmatum*, &c., &c. These were prepared at the Naples Biological Station, under the direction of Dr. Dohrn